

CLAIMS

1. A method of printing a feature (31, 51, 91) onto a substrate (30, 50, 90) comprising:
5 printing a plurality of spaced apart elements (35, 36) onto the substrate, each of the elements being smaller than the feature and the spacing (23, 43) between the elements being such that they combine on the substrate to form the feature.
- 10 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the elements comprise a printing medium and combine by coalescing.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:
printing the elements onto the substrate (30, 50) using a printing means,
15 wherein the printing means comprises a plurality of portions (21, 22, 41, 42), each of the portions corresponding to one of the elements.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the portions (21, 22, 41, 42) comprise recesses in a surface of the printing means.
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5. A method according to claim 3 or 4, further comprising:
applying a printing medium to the portions (21, 22, 41, 42); and
transferring the printing medium to the substrate (30, 50).
- 25 6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the printing medium is transferred to the substrate (30, 50) via an intermediate device.
7. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein the portions (21, 22, 41, 42) are of equal or substantially similar size.
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8. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 7, wherein the portions (21, 22, 41, 42) are parallel.

9. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 8, wherein the printing means comprises a cliché (20, 40).
- 5 10. A method according to any one of claims 2 to 9, wherein the printing medium comprises a resist material (31).
11. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the elements is narrower than the feature.
- 10 12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the elements is shorter than the feature.
13. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising printing a plurality of elements which coalesce to form a continuous feature having openings in pre-defined positions.
- 15 14. Apparatus for printing a feature (31, 51) onto a substrate (30, 50), comprising means for printing a plurality of spaced apart elements onto the substrate, each of the elements being smaller than the feature and the spacing between the elements being such that the elements combine on the substrate to form the feature.
- 20 15. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the printing means comprises a plurality of portions (21, 22, 41, 42), each of the portions corresponding to one of the elements.
- 25 16. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the portions (21, 22, 41, 42) comprise recesses in a surface of the printing means.
- 30 17. Apparatus according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the portions (21, 22, 41, 42) are of equal or substantially similar size.

18. Apparatus according to claim 15, 16 or 17, wherein the portions (21, 22, 41, 42) are parallel.

5 19. Apparatus according to any one of claims 14 to 18, wherein the printing means comprises a cliché (20, 40).